

In the Claims:

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A composite material,
comprising:

a ceramic matrix consisting essentially of phases of silicon,
carbon, and silicon carbide; and

fiber bundles having two different fractions including a
reinforcing fiber bundle fraction and a matrix fiber bundle
fraction having lengths with different averages, each of said
fiber bundles having a weight, said weights being proportional
to said fiber bundle lengths, said weights being plotted on a
total fiber bundle distribution, and said fractions of fiber
bundles being separated by a minimum in said total fiber
bundle distribution.

Claim 2 (Previously Amended). The composite material
according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said fiber
bundles have at least one protective layer.

Claim 3 (Previously Amended). The composite material
according to claim 1, wherein said fiber bundles contain
fibers selected from the group consisting of carbon fibers,
graphite fibers, SiC-fibers, aluminum oxide fibers, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{SiO}_2$ -
fibers, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{SiO}_2\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ -fibers, carbonized cellulose fibers,

carbonized wood fibers, and fibers resistant to elevated temperatures based on compounds containing Si,C,B,N,Al.

Claim 4 (Previously Amended). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said fiber bundles contain at least one of nano fibers, whiskers, and nanotubes.

Claim 5 (Previously Amended). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said ceramic matrix additionally contains phases of at least one of aluminum, zirconium, silicon nitride, boron nitride, boron carbide, SiBCN, Al_2O_3 , ZrO_2 , TiC, and iron silicides.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended). The composite material according to claim 5, wherein said ceramic matrix contains additions selected from the group consisting of iron, chromium, titanium, molybdenum, and nickel.

Claim 7 (Original). The composite material according to claim 5, wherein said fiber bundles are carbon and graphite fiber bundles.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, including a fraction of overlong fiber bundles, in addition

to said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction and said matrix fiber bundle fraction.

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Claim 10 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction and said matrix fiber bundle fraction are composed of several fiber bundle fractions with different average fiber bundle lengths.

Claim 11 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said average fiber bundle length of said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction is between 4 mm and 20 mm.

Claim 12 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said average fiber bundle length of said matrix fiber bundle fraction is between 0.2 mm and 5 mm.

Claim 13 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction has an average fiber bundle width between 0.02 mm and 5 mm.

Claim 14 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said matrix fiber bundle fraction has an average fiber bundle width between 0.02 mm and 2 mm.

Claim 15 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of said average fiber bundle length of said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction to said average fiber bundle length of said matrix fiber bundle fraction is between 1.5 and 10.

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Claim 16 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of said average fiber bundle length of said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction to an average fiber bundle width of said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction is between 2 and 500.

Claim 17 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of said average fiber bundle length of said matrix fiber bundle fraction to an average fiber bundle width of said matrix fiber bundle fraction is between 2 and 500.

Claim 18 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction has an average length/width/height ratio of between 2 and 50,000.

Claim 19 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said matrix fiber bundle fraction has an average length/width/height ratio of between 2 and 50,000.

Claim 20 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of a weight of said matrix fiber bundle fraction to a weight of all fiber bundles is between 0.1 and 0.8.

Claim 21 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing fiber bundle fraction has a width at half maximum of a fiber bundle length distribution of between 0.01 mm and 15 mm.

Claim 22 (Original). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said matrix fiber bundle fraction has a width at half maximum of a fiber bundle length distribution of between 0.01 mm and 5 mm.

Claims 23-66 (Withdrawn).

Claim 67 (Previously Added). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said phases of silicon in said ceramic matrix are elemental silicon.

Claim 68 (Previously Added). The composite material according to claim 1, wherein said phases of carbon in said ceramic matrix are elemental carbon.--